



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CITY OF EVANSVILLE
Eastside CSO Projects Advanced Facilities Planning Phase 1
SRF # WW08 13 82 05a

Date: August 29, 2008

Deadline for submittal of comments: September 29, 2008

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) has determined that the project described here and in Evansville's Preliminary Engineering Report D will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted within 30 days of the above date to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
100 North Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204

What happens next?

If we do not receive substantive comments during the 30-day comment period which indicate that serious environmental issues exist, the SRF's preliminary decision will become final. If the scope of the project changes significantly, the final notice will be revoked and the project's environmental impacts will be reevaluated. In such a case, a new Categorical Exclusion may be issued for another 30-day comment period, or the SRF Loan Program will prepare an EA or EIS; we may also reaffirm our earlier decision of Categorical Exclusion by issuing a memo or letter to the project's State Revolving Fund Official Loan File.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	Eastside CSO Projects Advanced Facilities Planning Phase 1 City of Evansville; PER D Project 1 1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 104 Evansville, IN 47740-001
SRF Project #:	WW08 13 82 05a
Authorized Representative:	Harry Lawson, General Manager Evansville Water & Sewer Utility

II. PROJECT LOCATION

No construction will occur to implement this project. Geotechnical investigations and survey work will occur in the Bee Slough area and along the proposed route of the Dress Plaza storage tunnel, as well as at Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 011 on Pigeon Creek. Other work will include engineering, planning, data collection and modeling.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The city is currently implementing its ongoing CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reduce the frequency and volume of untreated CSO discharges. There are eight CSOs which send flow to the Eastside wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Seven CSOs are in the Bee Slough and Dress Plaza areas along the Ohio River. The Bee Slough area CSOs are CSO 001, CSO 002 and CSO 103. The Dress Plaza area CSOs are CSO 004, CSO 038, and CSO 008 and CSO 010. Another CSO sending flow to the Eastside WWTP is CSO 011 located along Pigeon Creek, southeast of the intersection of Diamond Avenue and US 41. See Exhibit 1 for locations of all of the city's CSOs.

The city currently has four CSO control projects in mind involving the Eastside WWTP, a proposed Dress Plaza storage tunnel and a proposed constructed treatment wetland in Bee Slough:

1. The Eastside WWTP currently has secondary treatment capacity of 18 MGD. The headworks facility, built several years ago, has room to add pumps and related facilities to bring its capacity up to 40 MGD. Analysis of the conveyance and storage from the eastside CSOs to the Eastside WWTP would need to be coordinated closely with the treatment plant expansion preliminary design.

2. The primary means of collecting and conveying overflow from the Dress Plaza CSOs (010, 008, 038, and 004) would be a conveyance and storage tunnel to take this flow to the Eastside WWTP. Evaluation of the tunnel sizing, tunnel alignments, tunnel dewatering pump station requirements, and other project components would be part of the advanced facilities planning efforts. The hydrologic/hydraulic sizing of this tunnel and the wet weather lift station to dewater the tunnel would be dependent on the ultimate capacity of the Eastside WWTP (including short term peak capacity) and the timing and amount of “first flush” flow diverted directly to the Eastside WWTP headworks. These items would need to be considered in this conveyance and storage volume analysis.
3. CSO 001 and CSO 002 currently discharge into Bee Slough. These overflows would need to be captured for conveyance, storage and treatment. “First flush” overflows would generally require full treatment through the Eastside WWTP. Higher flows are anticipated to be diverted into the wetland treatment facility (the current Bee Slough ponding area). Depending on the ultimate tunnel storage volume required, the Dress Plaza tunnel may extend only from the Dress Plaza area to the Eastside WWTP; alternatively, it may need to extend farther east to the existing CSO 001 overflow point. Exhibit 1 shows the maximum extent of the Dress Plaza tunnel. Under either situation, it will probably be advantageous to convey a part of the “first flush” (smaller storm events) directly from CSOs 001 and 002 to the expanded Eastside WWTP headworks to maximize use of the expanded plant treatment capacity, before diverting flow into the tunnel for storage prior to pumping to the Eastside WWTP when wet weather flows decrease. Total flow and volume will need to be considered as part of the conveyance system and tunnel storage volume analysis.
4. The city intends to divert “higher” wet weather overflows from CSOs 001 and 002 into the Bee Slough wetlands treatment area. This volume would then not need to be stored in the Dress Plaza tunnel. The point at which this diversion begins and its flow rate and ultimate volume would be evaluated for input into the design of the overflow control structures, the Bee Slough wetlands, the screening facilities into the wetlands and the pumping facilities to empty the wetlands. This would need to be considered as part of the conveyance system and tunnel storage volume analysis.

The city evaluated two alternatives to address the problems: Under the “No Action” alternative, the city would not evaluate methods to protect public health by reducing CSO degradation of surface waters; the city’s LTCP would not be completely implemented. This alternative was rejected.

The selected alternative is to perform engineering and other studies, including program management/public outreach, CSO/WWTP sampling/data collection and evaluation, geotechnical/tunnel feasibility study, modeling, survey, and planning.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

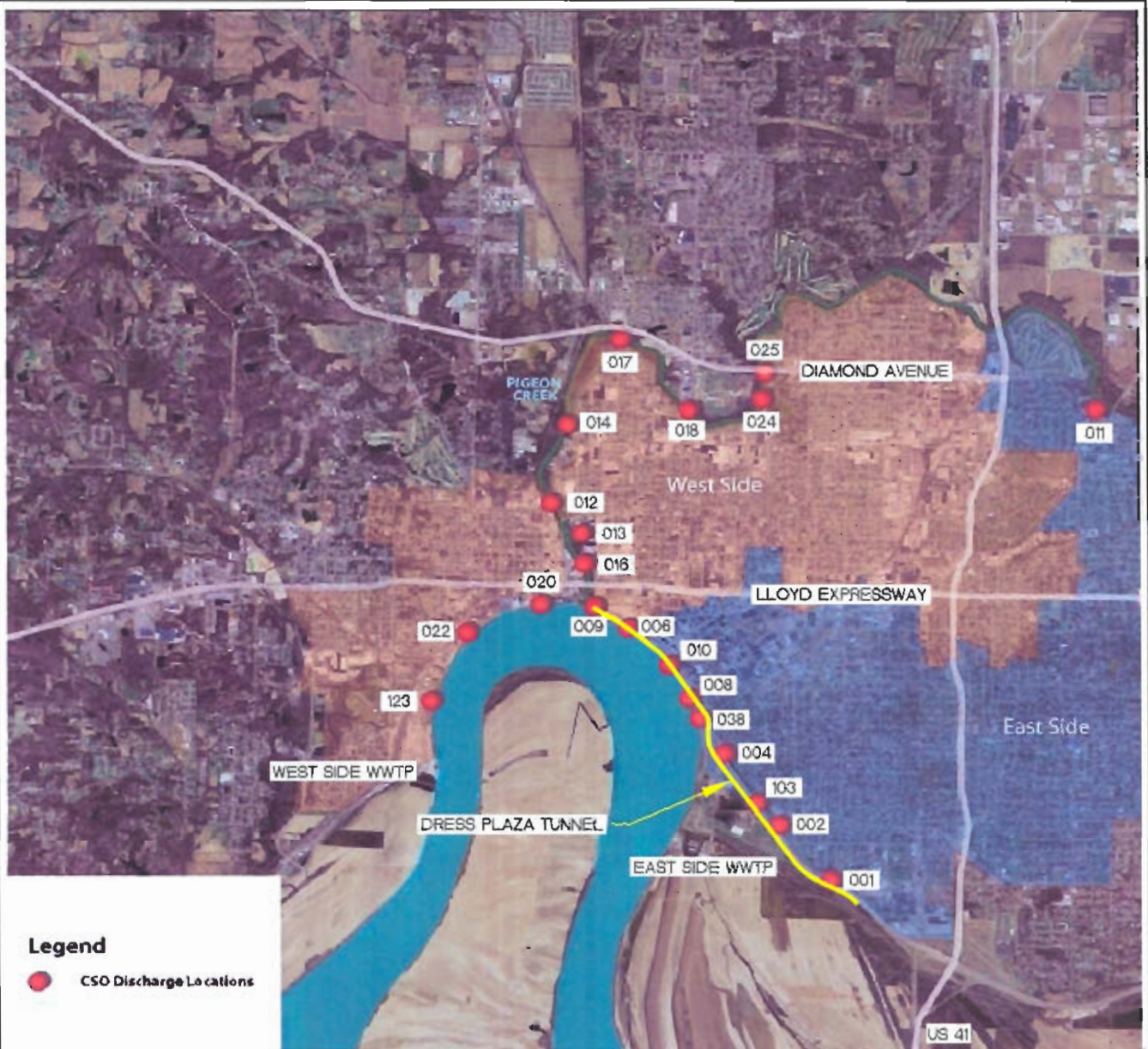
The estimated project cost is \$1,200,000. Evansville will borrow that amount from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) for a 20-year term at an annual interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The city has adjusted, and will continue to adjust, its rates and charges in order to pay for this project and debt service.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

This planning project does not involve any construction. Consistent with the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held at 1:30 PM on August 19, 2008 in Room 100 at the Civic Center Complex. Board members asked questions regarding the financing, timing and priority of the projects in PER D. No written comments were submitted in the five-day period following the hearing.



NOTE:
SEE EXHIBIT 1-2, SHEET 2 of 2
FOR THE PROPOSED CSO LTCP COMPONENTS



0 3000' 6000' 12000'



SCALE : 1" = 6000'

VS ENGINEERING, INC.
1275 N. HIGH SCHOOL RD. INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46254
TEL: (317) 295-2042 FAX: (317) 295-8757

CITY OF EVANSVILLE
PER D - PROJECT 1
EASTSIDE CSO PROJECTS - APP. PHASE 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

**EXHIBIT
1**